LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Afghan Series

Teheran, April 16, 1938.

No. 67

Subject: Turco-Afghan Treaty Renewed

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JUN 3 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 28 1938
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-M/C
JUN 3 - 1938
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that I have just learned that by a protocol signed at Ankara on December 31, 1937, by the representative of Afghanistan and the Turkish Foreign Minister the Treaty of Friendship between Afghanistan and Turkey of 1928 was extended for a further period of ten years as from 1938.

Respectfully yours,

Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

File No. 710.-Triplicate.

Copy sent to Embassy, Istanbul.

FILED
JUN - 8 1938

767.90H11/9

Istanbul, Turkey,

October 13, 1928.

No. 845

Subject: Prolongation of Turkish-Afghan Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and Turkish Policy Towards Countries of Western Asia.

767.70H11/10

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the 3 honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 356 of June 20, 1928, enclosing the text of the Turkish-Afghan Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed at Ankara on May 25, 1928, and to
1/ transmit herewith a translation of a Protocol signed at Ankara on December 31, 1927, by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Afghan Ambassador, prolonging

for

for a period of ten years the above-mentioned Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. This Protocol was ratified by the Grand National Assembly on June 22,
2/ 1938, and there is enclosed, for the Department's files, a translation of the law ratifying the Protocol.

During the consideration of the Protocol by the Grand National Assembly the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered a speech in which he discussed Turkey's policy towards the countries of
3/ western Asia. There is enclosed, as of interest to the Department, a translation of his remarks. After discussing briefly the provisions of the Turkish-Afghan and the Turkish-Iranian treaties and extolling the Saadabad Pact in connection with which he emphasized Turkey's bonds of friendship with the Arab world, he took the occasion to warn the Syrian Government that, despite the friendly feelings of Turkey towards the Syrian people, it was impossible to maintain for a long time a sincere friendship which existed on only one side, and that it was only human that when one Government encouraged manifestations against another the latter should finally become irritated notwithstanding the strength of its friendly feelings.

In referring to the Saadabad Pact, Dr. Aras stated that it was "concluded with the consent and even the assistance of two great Powers, friends and neighbors of the Signatory States, namely, our friend the U. S. S. R., and another friend of ours, the British Empire". Upon the conclusion of his address Dr. Aras was requested by a Deputy to explain this statement.

"Although

"Although the Ankara Government is undoubtedly bound with strong friendly ties with its neighbors", declared the Deputy, "this statement makes somewhat the impression as if we would not have been able to conclude this Pact in case our neighbors refused to give their consent thereto. To me this seems to differ somewhat from what we have been used to".

In reply, Dr. Aras made the following statement:

> "Let me please explain. It is certainly known to you that, in accordance with a treaty at present in effect between Soviet Russia and Turkey, which has recently been prolonged, both parties have undertaken to inform each other whenever negotiations are started with their immediate neighbors for the conclusion of a political pact and, also to obtain the consent of the other party before such a pact is signed. On the other hand, it is certainly also known to you that Iraq, a member of the Eastern Pact, has a Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain and that it must obtain the consent of Great Britain before affixing its signature to any pact whatsoever. Consequently, this pact was concluded with the consent of and even the assistance of these two great neighbor states. This is what I desired to convey by my previous statement".

Respectfully yours,

J. V. A. MacMURRAY.

Enclosures:

1/ - Translation of Protocol signed at Ankara on December 31, 1937;

2/ - Translation of law ratifying the Protocol;

3/ - Translation of remarks made by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs before Grand National Assembly on June 22, 1938.

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Copy sent to American Legation, Teheran;
Copy sent to American Consulate General, Beirut.

710

RFK:mej

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. dated October 13, 1938, from the American Embassy at Istanbul, Turkey.

TRANSLATION

SOURCE: OFFICIAL GAZETTE No. 3955, July 9, 1938.

P R O T O C O L

His Excellency Dr. Tevfik Rüştü Aras, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy from Izmir, on behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic, on the one part, and His Excellency Sultan Ahmed, Ambassador to Ankara, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, on the other part, animated with the desire of emphasizing once more the bonds of friendship and brotherhood which happily exist between the two countries, have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1. - The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation concluded in Ankara on May 25, 1928, between Turkey and Afghanistan and the two Protocols attached thereto, have been prolonged for a period of ten years from the date of expiration of the said treaty.

Article 2. - The present Protocol will be ratified and the ratifications will be communicated to the other Party by note. It will go into effect 15 days after the date of presentation of the last note.

Done in duplicate, in Ankara, on the 31st day of December, 1937.

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. dated October 13, 1938, from the American Embassy at Istanbul, Turkey.

TRANSLATION

SOURCE: OFFICIAL GAZETTE No. 3955, July 9, 1938.

Law Ratifying the Protocol Relative to the Prolongation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Concluded between the Turkish Republic and the Government of Afghanistan.

Law No. 3472. Date of Passage: June 22, 1938.

Article 1. - The Protocol concluded and signed on December 31, 1937, in Ankara, between the Turkish Republic and the Government of Afghanistan relative to the prolongation for a period of ten years from the date of its expiration of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and the two Protocols attached thereto concluded on May 25, 1928, between the two Governments have herewith been approved and ratified.

Article 2. - The present law goes into effect on the date of its publication.

Article 3. - The Council of Ministers is charged with the application of the provisions of the present law.

Enclosure No. 3 to Despatch No. dated October 13, 19.
from the American Embassy at Istanbul, Turkey.

TRANSLATION

SOURCE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Volume 26, Third Session, Fifth Legislature, pages 254-255.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. TEVFIK RUSTU ARAS, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 22, 1939.

"Gentlemen:

In my statement on the occasion of the Turco-Hellenic Treaty which received your approval I gave you an outline of the essential features of the policy pursued by us in the Balkans.

Today, availing myself of the opportunity offered me in connection with the prolongation of the Turco-Afghan Treaty submitted for your high approval, I wish to give you a brief historical account of our spotless friendship with this sister nation from the day of the restoration of its independence, and to explain to you, at the same time, the basis of the policy which we are pursuing with conviction and fervor in western Asia. Thus the clarity and sincerity of the ideal pursued by Turkey in its international relations will once more manifest itself before your High Assembly.

Afghanistan having recovered its independence in 1920 concluded its first important Treaty of Alliance in 1921 with Turkey. This treaty, which was revised in 1928, partook of the nature of a manifestation of collaboration and brotherhood; it was better adapted to existing world conditions and harmonized with the treaty which we had concluded with our sister nation, Iran.

Thus

Thus the Turco-Afghan Treaty, signed on May 25, 1928, assumed a form in keeping with the political principles underlying the Turco-Iranian Treaty, apart from the provisions of the latter resulting from the particular fact that we border upon Iran, and in harmony with the policy which we follow jointly with the countries of western Asia.

The Turco-Afghan Treaty, concluded exclusively with this aspiration and to this end, is characteristic in that both High Contracting Parties agree to make every effort -- for the progress and greatness of their countries and peoples --to insure to each other, by means of particular conventions concluded or to be concluded separately, all equipment which one party may possess and which the other may need, and to facilitate and to favor thus such needs.

By virtue of this treaty both High Contracting Parties agree that in case of a hostile action directed against one of them by one or several powers, the other party shall employ all its efforts to forestall such an aggression, and should, despite its efforts, war become an accomplished fact the two Governments will reconsider the situation with good will and solicitude with a view to taking the decision best suited to their superior interests.

According to Article 3 of the said treaty each of the two High Contracting Parties furthermore agrees not to participate in any alliance or in any political, military, economic or financial agreement whatsoever directed against the other Contracting Party by one or several States, or in any hostile action directed by

one

one or several States against the military security of the other.

Each of the two High Contracting Parties reserves to itself complete freedom of action as regards their relations with other States, apart from their mutual obligations specified in this treaty.

The treaty in effect with brotherly Iran likewise contains all the essential mutual obligations of the Turco-Afghan Treaty, except the particularity which I have pointed out to you. On the other hand, should one of us be the object of an aggression, although it is most probable that both parties will take joint action after a cordial and detailed consultation, the Turco-Iranian Treaty contains also -- for the cases where the neutrality of the other party is more in conformity with the superior and natural interests and might of both countries -- provisions which assure through the mobilization of the other party a neutrality facilitating to a maximum extent the defense of the party which is the victim of the aggression. It likewise comprises mutual obligations resulting from the particular fact that the two countries are border states.

I emphasized to you at the outset that we have always attached great importance to the fact that the treaties concluded with these sister states of western Asia should be in harmony with the political ideal pursued by all of us in this vast and precious region of the world. It is about this political ideal that I would now like to speak to your High Assembly.

I

I wish to point out in the first place, with clarity and satisfaction, that this political ideal of all of us is realized today in the Saadabad Pact thanks to the far-sightedness and lofty initiative of His Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran. This Pact which -- as I pointed out in the speech delivered at Teheran on the occasion of its signature -- has made western Asia into one common brotherland was concluded with the consent and even the assistance of two Great Powers, friends and neighbors of the signatory states, namely, our friend the U. S. S. R., and another friend of ours, the British Empire. Thus a great work was accomplished which is in conformity with our own superior interests as well as with those of our great neighbors, and which should serve the peace sincerely and seriously in this important part of the world. A great and very broad future lies in store for this important achievement. Due to the noble spirit mentioned before which presided over its creation, its anticipated developments in serving peace are of a nature to go far beyond simple imagination. The fact that Iraq, neighbor and friend, has taken in this pact the place it deserves constitutes another bond between the States participating in the pact and the States of the Arab world the recovery of whose independence desired so much by us from the bottom of our hearts, we have been happy to witness. The news which we have learned recently with great pleasure about the relationship which is being established between the Imperial dynasty of Iran and the Royal dynasty of Egypt, our other sister, adds another happy and strong bond to those which we would like to see grow in number.

Independently

Independently of this our country possesses with the States of the Arab world very numerous direct brotherly ties which it is always desirous of strengthening.

In speaking of western Asia, I wish to give you also a summary of what we think on the subject of Syria, our close neighbor. We wish to have the pleasure of seeing some day -- a day not too distant -- Syria also recover its independence, towards which the Turkish nation has always cherished feelings of brotherly friendship. The relations which the new Turkey takes such care to maintain with Egypt, Iraq, Hejaz and Yemen constitute another eloquent evidence of the sincere friendship and respect which we feel for the Arab world.

There is no reason why we should nourish feelings less strong or different for the Syrian people whom we love. However, it is impossible to maintain for a long time a sincere friendship which exists on only one side. We do not doubt that the patriotic majority of the Syrian people entertains in regard to us brotherly feelings similar to our own sentiments. However, it is only when governments follow the path indicated by the real inclinations of their people that they are in a position to contribute to the development of the relations mutually desired. As long as one side engages in superfluous manifestations against the other -- whether these manifestations are the result of provocation or deceit --, and as long as governments encourage such manifestations it is but human that the other party should finally become irritated regardless of the strength and sincerity of its good feelings. We would like to save Turco-Syrian brotherly relations from such an end.

We

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
NOV 9 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Istanbul, Turkey,

October 13, 1938.

No. 845

Subject: Prolongation of Turkish-Afghan Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and Turkish Policy Towards Countries of Western Asia.

767.90H11/10

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NOV 4 1938
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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During the consideration of the Protocol by the Grand National Assembly the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered a speech in which he discussed Turkey's policy towards the countries of 3/ western Asia. There is enclosed, as of interest to the Department, a translation of his remarks. After discussing briefly the provisions of the Turkish-Afghan and the Turkish-Iranian treaties and extolling the Saadabad Pact in connection with which he emphasized Turkey's bonds of friendship with the Arab world, he took the occasion to warn the Syrian Government that, despite the friendly feelings of Turkey towards the Syrian people, it was impossible to maintain for a long time a sincere friendship which existed on only one side, and that it was only human that when one Government encouraged manifestations against another the latter should finally become irritated notwithstanding the strength of its friendly feelings.

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In reply, Dr. Aras made the following statement:

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Copy sent to American Legation, Teheran;
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Done in duplicate, in Ankara, on the 31st day of December, 1937.

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 845 dated October 13, 1938, from the American Embassy at Istanbul, Turkey.

TRANSLATION

SOURCE: OFFICIAL GAZETTE
No. 3955, July 9, 1938.

Law Ratifying the Protocol Relative to the Prolongation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Concluded between the Turkish Republic and the Government of Afghanistan.

Law No. 3479. Date of Passage: June 22, 1938.

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SOURCE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Volume 26, Third Session, Fifth Legislature, pages 254-255.

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one or several States against the military security of the other.

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The treaty in effect with brotherly Iran likewise contains all the essential mutual obligations of the Turco-Afghan Treaty, except the particularity which I have pointed out to you. On the other hand, should one of us be the object of an aggression, although it is most probable that both parties will take joint action after a cordial and detailed consultation, the Turco-Iranian Treaty contains also -- for the cases where the neutrality of the other party is more in conformity with the superior and natural interests and might of both countries -- provisions which assure through the mobilization of the other party a neutrality facilitating to a maximum extent the defense of the party which is the victim of the aggression. It likewise comprises mutual obligations resulting from the particular fact that the two countries are border states.

I emphasized to you at the outset that we have always attached great importance to the fact that the treaties concluded with these sister states of western Asia should be in harmony with the political ideal pursued by all of us in this vast and precious region of the world. It is about this political ideal that I would now like to speak to your High Assembly.

I wish to point out in the first place, with clarity and satisfaction, that this political ideal of all of us is realized today in the Saadabad Pact thanks to the far-sightedness and lofty initiative of His Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran. This Pact which -- as I pointed out in the speech delivered at Teheran on the occasion of its signature -- has made western Asia into one common brotherland was concluded with the consent and even the assistance of two Great Powers, friends and neighbors of the signatory states, namely, our friend the U. S. S. R., and another friend of ours, the British Empire. Thus a great work was accomplished which is in conformity with our own superior interests as well as with those of our great neighbors, and which should serve the peace sincerely and seriously in this important part of the world. A great and very broad future lies in store for this important achievement. Due to the noble spirit mentioned before which presided over its creation, its anticipated developments in serving peace are of a nature to go far beyond simple imagination. The fact that Iraq, neighbor and friend, has taken in this pact the place it deserves constitutes another bond between the States participating in the pact and the States of the Arab world the recovery of whose independence desired so much by us from the bottom of our hearts, we have been happy to witness. The news which we have learned recently with great pleasure about the relationship which is being established between the Imperial dynasty of Iran and the Royal dynasty of Egypt, our other sister, adds another happy and strong bond to those which we would like to see grow in number.

Independently

Independently of this our country possesses with the States of the Arab world very numerous direct brotherly ties which it is always desirous of strengthening.

In speaking of western Asia, I wish to give you also a summary of what we think on the subject of Syria, our close neighbor. We wish to have the pleasure of seeing some day -- a day not too distant -- Syria also recover its independence, towards which the Turkish nation has always cherished feelings of brotherly friendship. The relations which the new Turkey takes such care to maintain with Egypt, Iraq, Hejaz and Yemen constitute another eloquent evidence of the sincere friendship and respect which we feel for the Arab world.

There is no reason why we should nourish feelings less strong or different for the Syrian people whom we love. However, it is impossible to maintain for a long time a sincere friendship which exists on only one side. We do not doubt that the patriotic majority of the Syrian people entertains in regard to us brotherly feelings similar to our own sentiments. However, it is only when governments follow the path indicated by the real inclinations of their people that they are in a position to contribute to the development of the relations mutually desired. As long as one side engages in superfluous manifestations against the other -- whether these manifestations are the result of provocation or deceit --, and as long as governments encourage such manifestations it is but human that the other party should finally become irritated regardless of the strength and sincerity of its good feelings. We would like to save Turco-Syrian brotherly relations from such an end.

We

We for our part have always worked -- and still work -- for friendship. Had I failed to describe as it is this aspect of the problem, I would have been wanting in sincerity to all those interested as well as to ourselves.

In terminating the present statement which I am making in connection with the prolongation of the Turco-Afghan Treaty, I must likewise emphasize in respect to our policy that one of the factors consecrating our friendships, is the fact that the friendly governments endeavor to maintain these relations in a spirit of mutual understanding, and also that these friendships originated in the bosom of the Nations.

Gentlemen:

I request you to ratify the Protocol prolonging the Turco-Afghan Treaty, the contents of which I have outlined to you and the effects of which on our relations with our other neighbors I have tried to explain to you in detail.

Central File: Decimal File 767.90H11, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Afghanistan, War. Peace. Friendship. Alliance. Non-Aggression., April 16, 1938 - October 13, 1938. April 16, 1938 - October 13, 1938. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111394980%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.